GAMMARUS AEQUICAUDA (MARTYNOV, 1931) (CRUSTACEA, AMPHIPODA): A REQUEST FOR PRESERVATION UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS. Z.N.(S.) 1900

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The crustacean, *Gammarus aequicauda* (Martynov, 1931) is the most common amphipod around the Mediterranean basin. It has an enormously wide chlorinity tolerance (0·81–21·3‰, Kant *et al.*, 1968, *Versl. zoöl. Werkexc. Banyuls-sur-Mer*: 3–21.–Zoöl. Mus. Amsterdam) and forms a very important part of the biomass in mixohaline waters, such as estuaries and lagoons. In the 38 years of its existence, the name is used in at least 19 publications (either as *Gammarus aequicauda* or as *G. locusta* ssp. *aequicauda*), written by at least 13 different authors (when publications have been written by more than one author, only the first one has been counted). Several of these publications are in the field of ecology.

2. Up to now, *G. aequicauda* was thought to be specifically different from *G. plumicornis* Costa, 1853, a name that during the 116 years following its description has been used correctly 3 times only (by 2 authors). Stock, 1969 (*Bull. zool. Mus. Univ. Amsterdam*, **1** (12) : 153) recently showed that *G. aequicauda* and *G. plumicornis* are interfertile and thus belong to one species.

3. There are also two erroneous records under the name of *G. plumicornis* (by two authors) that apply in reality to *G. crinicornis* (cf. Stock, 1967, *Zool. Verh. Leiden*, **90** : 8). In Stebbing's much used monograph (1906, *Tierreich*, 21 : 742) the name *plumicornis* is listed only, without any further qualifications. In Barnard's checklist (1958, *Allan Hancock Found. Publ.*, occ. Pap., 19 : 54), the name *plumicornis* is listed as a dubious name. It thus appears that there are more erroneous records, or citations as a dubious species, than pertinent records.

4. *Gammarus aequicauda* has still another senior synonym, almost unused, viz., *Gammarus tunetanus* Simon, 1885. This species is described in an unrecognizable way and unaccompanied by illustrations. It is listed only twice afterwards, viz., in the compilations of Stebbing and of Barnard. Stebbing (l.c.: 477) considers it a species inquirenda, Barnard (l.c.: 55) a species dubia. The type specimen is preserved, however, in the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, and leaves no doubt as to its identity with *G. aequicauda*.

5. Since the name *Gammarus aequicauda* may be considered to be in current use (19 quotations in 38 years, both by taxonomists and by ecologists), it would cause unnecessary confusion to use the name *G. plumicornis* (which was always considered to be a different or doubtful species) or *G. tunetanus* (which has been cited only twice) through strict application of the Law of Priority. This confusion can be prevented by suppression of the two senior specific names.

6. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is asked to take the following actions:

(a) to make use of its plenary powers to suppress for the purposes of the Law of Priority but not for those of the Law of Homonymy, the specific

names *plumicornis* Costa, 1853 (*Rendiconto Soc. R. Borbonica, Acad. Sci.*, (n.S.) 1853 : 176) and *tunetanus* Simon, 1885 (*Exploration sci. Tunésie*: 6—Imprimérie Nationale, Paris) as published in the binomina *Gammarus plumicornis* and *Gammarus tunetanus*;

(b) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *aequicauda* Martynov, 1931 (*Zool. Jahrb.* (Syst.), **60** (3–4) : 593), as published in the binomen *Carinogammarus aequicauda*;

(c) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology the names *plumicornis* Costa, 1853, and *tunetanus* Simon, 1885, as suppressed under (a) above.

Mr. S. Pinkster, M.Sc., and Mr. P. Kant, B.Sc., who both have published on *Gammarus aequicauda* and *G. plumicornis*, support this proposal.